AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the subject application.

Claim 1 (currently amended): A solid ionic conjugate comprising a basic pharmaceutical compound and a functional polymer, wherein: (a) said basic pharmaceutical compound is poorly soluble in water and is less soluble than said solid ionic conjugate and (b) said functional polymer is a carboxyl bearing copolyester ~~said solid ionic conjugate having aqueous solubility greater than that of said pharmaceutical compound~~.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The solid ionic conjugate of claim 1 wherein said functional polymer is made by ring-opening polymerization of one or more cyclic monomers selected from the group consisting of glycolide, lactide, trimethylene carbonate, p-dioxanone, 1,5-dioxapan-2-dione, and ε-caprolactone, and trimethylene carbonate ~~pharmaceutical compound is insoluble or poorly soluble in water~~.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The solid ionic conjugate of claim 1 wherein said functional polymer is made by mixed partial acylation of cyclodextrin with a fatty acid anhydride and a cyclic anhydride, followed by grafting the unacylated hydroxylic group of said cyclodextrin with one or more cyclic monomers selected from glycolide, lactide, p-dioanone, 1,5-dioxapan-2-dione, ε-caprolactone, and trimethylene carbonate ~~comprises: i) an absorbable copolyester made by ring-opening polymerization of one or more cyclic monomers selected from the group consisting of glycolide, lactide, trimethylene carbonate, p-dioxanone, 1,5-dioxapan-2-dione, and ε-caprolactone; or ii) a carboxyl-bearing, water-insoluble cyclodextrin derivative made by a mixed partial acylation of cyclodextrin with a fatty acid anhydride and a cyclic anhydride, followed by grafting the unacylated hydroxylic group of said cyclodextrin with one or more cyclic monomers selected from glycolide, lactide, p-dioxanone, 1,5-dioxapan-2-dione, ε-caprolactone, and trimethylene carbonate~~.

Claim 4 (original): The solid ionic conjugate of claim 1 wherein said pharmaceutical compound is an aryl-heterocyclic compound.

Claim 5 (original): The solid ionic conjugate of claim 4 wherein said pharmaceutical compound is ziprasidone.

Claim 6 (original): A pharmaceutical composition comprising the ionic conjugate of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

Claim 7 (original): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 6 wherein said pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle is for controlled release or immediate release of said pharmaceutical compound.

Claim 8 (original): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 6 wherein the functional polymer comprises: i) an absorbable copolyester made by ring-opening polymerization of one or more of cyclic monomers selected from glycolide, lactide, trimethylene carbonate, p-dioxanone, 1,5-dioxapan-2-dione, and ε-caprolactone; or ii) a carboxyl-bearing, water-insoluble cyclodextrin derivative made by a mixed partial acylation of cyclodextrin with a fatty acid anhydride and a cyclic anhydride, followed by grafting the unacylated hydroxylic group of said cyclodextrin with one or more of the following cyclic monomers: glycolide, lactide, p-dioxanone, 1,5-dioxapan-2-dione, ε-caprolactone, and trimethylene carbonate.

Claim 9 (original): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 4 wherein the vehicle comprises: i) an absorbable gel-forming liquid; or ii) a vegetable oil.

Claim 10 (original): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 4 wherein said pharmaceutical compound is ziprasidone; said functional polymer comprises: i) an absorbable copolyester made by ring-opening polymerization of one or more cyclic monomers selected from glycolide, lactide, trimethylene carbonate, p-dioxanone, 1,5-dioxapan-2-dione, and ε-caprolactone; or ii) a carboxyl-bearing, water-insoluble cyclodextrin derivative made by a mixed partial acylation of cyclodextrin with a fatty acid anhydride and a cyclic anhydride, followed by grafting the unacylated hydroxylic group of said cyclodextrin with one or more cyclic monomers selected from glycolide, lactide, p-dioxanone, 1,5-dioxapan-2-dione, ε-caprolactone, and trimethylene carbonate; and said vehicle comprises: i) an absorbable gel-forming liquid; or ii) a vegetable oil.

Claim 11 (original): A process for preparing the solid ionic conjugate of claim 1 wherein said pharmaceutical compound and a functional polymer are dissolved in an organic solvent and the ionic conjugate in substantially dry form is obtained after removing the solvent by distillation or sublimation under reduced pressure.

Claim 12 (original): The process of claim 11 wherein said pharmaceutical compound is insoluble or poorly soluble in water.

Claim 13 (original): The process of claim 11 wherein said pharmaceutical compound is an aryl-heterocyclic compound.

Claim 14 (original): The process of claim 13 wherein said pharmaceutical compound is ziprasidone free base.

Claim 15 (original): The process of claim 11 wherein said pharmaceutical compound is ziprasidone; and said functional polymer comprises: i) an absorbable copolyester made by ring-opening polymerization of one or more cyclic monomers selected from glycolide, lactide, trimethylene carbonate, p-dioxanone, 1,5-dioxapan-2-dione, and ε-caprolactone; or ii) a carboxyl-bearing, water-insoluble cyclodextrin derivative made by a mixed partial acylation of cyclodextrin with a fatty acid anhydride and a cyclic anhydride, followed by grafting the unacylated hydroxylic group of said cyclodextrin with one or more of the following cyclic monomers: glycolide, lactide, p-dioxanone, 1,5-dioxapan-2-dione, ε-caprolactone, and trimethylene carbonate; and said organic solvent is hexafluoro-isopropanol.